

**Washington, DC** - Last night, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, Chairwoman of the Committee on House Administration, formally announced the creation of a three member task force to address matters concerning the November 2006 elections in Florida's 13<sup>th</sup>

Congressional District. Members of the task force will examine factors surrounding the under-vote of approximately 18,000 votes, including issues with election procedures, administration processes, voting machines, and ballots.

Conducting oversight of federal elections falls under the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration. While awaiting Ranking Member Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) to appoint a member of the Minority party to serve, Chairwoman Millender-McDonald named the following members to the task force:

Congressman Charles Gonzalez - CHAIR (D-TX)  
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

Gonzalez issued the following statement on his appointment to chair this task force:

"The right to vote is the very foundation of our nation's democracy. Voters throughout our nation must be assured that their right to cast a ballot and have that vote counted is protected without compromise.

This task force will establish a transparent and fair process to address substantive concerns relating to different aspects of the November 7, 2006 election for United States Representative from the 13th Congressional District of Florida. Recognizing that the Constitution of the United States bestows the responsibility upon each House of Congress as the final judge of the 'elections and returns' of its own Members, the task force will present its findings to the full Committee on House Administration after a careful and thorough review of all relevant facts."

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